

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 15, 2006 sets forth a requirement for restriction between four inventions, grouping the pending claims into four Groups I-IV. Applicants hereby elect Group III, comprising claims 17-38.

The restriction requirement further requires a sequence election, setting forth four groups A-D. Applicants hereby elect Group B, drawn to a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:2 or a sequence encoding SEQ ID NO:6.

By the present amendment, claims 17, 18, 25, 27, 32, and 33 have been amended to cancel non-elected subject matter without prejudice or disclaimer thereof. Claim 17 has been amended to recite variants of SEQ ID NO:6 having at least 95% sequence identity and having the same enzymatic activity. Support for this amendment can be found at least in original claim 1 and paragraphs 47-49 of the specification.

No prohibited new matter has been introduced by way of the above amendments. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation or divisional application on subject matter canceled by way of this Amendment.

Further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order. Such action is earnestly solicited.

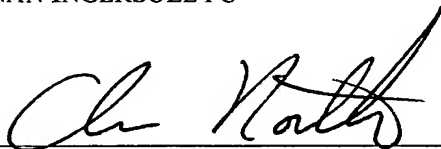
In the event that there are any questions relating to this application, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

Date: May 15, 2006

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